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Reply to: Tampa, FL

August 7, 2001

**SARASOTA MAN SENTENCED
IN SCAM VICTIMIZING ELDERLY VICTIMS**

Tampa - Mac Cauley, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, announced today that defendant Serges Jacques Descent was sentenced before the Honorable James S. Moody, Jr. in connection with mail fraud and money laundering offenses of which he was previously convicted.

Serges Jacques Descent, a/k/a Jack Descent, a 64 year old resident of Sarasota, Florida was previously found guilty of fifty-seven counts charging the commission of crimes relating to telemarketing fraud activities involving a foreign lottery scam that victimized the elderly. Descent was found guilty of Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud (One Count); Mail Fraud (Twenty-six Counts); Money Laundering Conspiracy (One Count); Engaging in Illegal Monetary Transactions (Twenty-four Counts); and Laundering of Monetary Instruments (Five Counts). In addition, the jury ordered that Descent forfeit \$1,688,845.41.

Today, Judge Moody sentenced Serges Jacques Descent to ten (10) years imprisonment and ordered him to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,512,774.81.

Press Release
August 7, 2001
Page 2

Mac Cauley, the United States Attorney, stated: "Fraud schemes such as that proven during the trial of this case prey on the elderly and the vulnerable in our community. This Office will continue to vigorously prosecute those who commit such offenses."

This case was investigated by Inspector Cheryl Kinnebrew, United States Postal Inspection Service, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Bryant Camareno and Robert T. Monk of the United States Attorney's Office.

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